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Letter dated 31 July 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my letter dated 5 December 1994 addressed to you (A/49/760-S/1994/1386), I called your attention to the fact that the United States had transferred 600 kilograms of radioactive uranium ready to be used in nuclear-weapons manufacture from the Republic of Kazakstan and had stored it at United States nuclear facilities in Tennessee.

In the letter in question, I pointed to the negative effects this action could have. This is particularly so in the absence of any guarantees to prevent the use of such material for military purposes and given that there are no procedures to ensure that it is not surreptitiously passed on to a particular party, namely Israel, that has the closest links with the United States of America with respect to nuclear cooperation in the military field. Although a great deal of time has elapsed since we first raised this issue - one that involves activities that are in violation of international agreements and represent an impediment to efforts aimed at eliminating nuclear materials - no measures have yet been taken to trace the uranium or to determine what has become of it.

In order to avoid any adverse consequences that may ensue from the United States of America retaining possession of this uranium, we again stress the need for urgent measures to be taken to trace and destroy it. These measures must be taken with the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and under the authority of the Security Council in accordance with its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security.

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* A/50/150.

We are of the view that, if the United States refuses to cooperate in this regard and if the Security Council fails to require the United States Government to report and destroy the uranium in the proper manner, any State will be entitled to acquire and store any amount of uranium that it deems sufficient for its needs, and thus break the monopoly of a particular State on the acquisition and stockpiling of this material, and neither the Security Council nor IAEA nor the United States of America itself will have any right to object.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 70 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed A. AZWI
Permanent Representative